

President's council will tour Tar Creek site

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A team from the President's Council on Environmental Quality are scheduled to visit the Tar Creek Superfund site Jan. 29 and hold technical discussions regarding final solutions for the site, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Tri-Sate Mining District is listed as the nation's number one superfund site after being plagued for years with environmental and health issues since lead and zinc mining operations ceased in the mid-1980s.

A federal meeting is slated the afternoon of Jan. 28 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Tulsa, according to an agenda released by the corps.

The following day, the team will tour the superfund site, the Picher mining museum and attend a variety of meetings with local and state officials. On Thursday, the team will return to the Tulsa corps office for a federal team consultation.

Federal officials slated to tour include representatives from the offices of the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Congressmen Brad Carson, D-Okla., and Steve Largent, R-Okla., and senators James Inhofe, R-Okla., and Don Nickles, R-Okla. State officials include those representing the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Conservation Commission and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, along with state Sen. Rick Littlefield, D-Grove, and Larry Roberts, D-Miami.

Invitations are also being sent to leaders from nine federally recognized area tribes as well as the mayors of all northern Ottawa County towns, according to information released by the corps.

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